

# W5YI REPORT

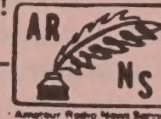
Up to the minute news from the worlds of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

## Dits & Bits

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## 1985 - The Year's Top Ham Radio Events!

Every year about this time we pause to reflect on the major amateur radio and telecommunications happenings of the past twelve months. One thing for certain. Technology, like time, never stands still — and amateur radio is always in a state of change.

(1.) - Probably the top amateur radio story of the year was the confusion that surrounded what the broadcast media could or could not do on amateur radio spectrum during a communications emergency. Broadcasters took matters into their own hands in September and set up their own logistical circuits on the amateur airwaves after a powerful tremor devastated Mexico City. They said "the new rule of reason" allowed it.

The FCC had issued a ruling on broadcast use of the ham bands the month before. It was "interpreted" by the news media to mean that amateur spectrum could indeed be used if all other means of communications were disrupted.

Broadcasters now know that the Commission never meant for the media to gather news or support their staffs using circuits set up in the ham bands.

(2.) - The year's number two ham radio story was the FCC's ruling on PRB-1. The Commission declared a limited pre-emption in

September over state and local regulation of amateur radio facilities. The FCC took the position that local and state governments can not arbitrarily restrict amateur radio antennas and their support structures without taking health, safety and aesthetic concerns into consideration.

(3.) - Amateur radio operators provided much needed emergency communications during the three major disasters of 1985 - the Delta-191 crash in Dallas, the Mexico City earthquake and the Colombian volcano eruption.

(4.) - Growth in amateur radio continued at a very slow pace during 1985 — although the number of amateurs upgrading their license to a higher class increased somewhat. This is due primarily to the success of the volunteer testing program.

Biggest disappointment was the continued decline in the number of Novice operators and those licensed for the first time. New amateurs are the life blood of our hobby! Most amateurs failing to renew their licenses were disillusioned Novices.

Fiscal Year	Upgraded License:	Newly Licensed:	Amateur Census:
1983	23,024	20,940	410,767
1984	16,184	18,800	409,923
1985	20,298	17,373	412,587



## Total Number of Amateurs by License Class

Fiscal Year 1983:	1984:	1985:
Novice 86,781	80,461	76,337
Technic. 76,433	79,950	83,117
General 118,263	116,804	117,340
Advanc. 95,381	97,084	97,825
Extra 33,909	35,624	37,968
<b>TOTAL: 410,767</b>	<b>409,923</b>	<b>412,587</b>

Noting that the average age of Canadian amateurs is well up in the 50's, the Canadian government proposed to revitalize their service with a new entry level no-code license for its amateur service.

(5.) - 1985 marked the first year that the U.S. government administered no amateur radio operator examinations at all. The volunteer testing program appears to be a complete success with far more testing opportunities being available to the amateur than when the FCC administered the tests.. Pass rates, while climbing due to the greater availability of license preparation material, were pretty much on a par with prior FCC results.

(6.) - The Commission continued to relax testing program restrictions. VEC's no longer are required to notify FCC field offices of test sessions and amateurs are no longer required to wait 30 days before retaking failed examinations. A conference to further familiarize VEC's with FCC procedures and policy was held in Gettysburg in August.

(7.) - The Commission proposed at mid-year to further deregulate the amateur testing program by turning test design (including determining pool question answers) over to volunteer examiners. This had previously been scheduled for January 1987.

VECs would be empowered to maintain the question pools (including the Novice Class) instead of the FCC. As the Commission envisions, VECs may distribute tests (and answers) but the VE will not be required to use them. A final ruling is due on this during early 1986.

(8.) - There was good news - and bad news in amateur spectrum allocation. The good news was that the Commission authorized the 24.890-24.990 and 902-928 MHz WARC

approved frequency bands to the amateur service.

The bad news was the withdrawal of 420-430 MHz along the Canadian border and the new sharing of the 160 meter and 450 MHz band with other radio services -- a trend that could ultimately include the 220-MHz band as well as land mobile needs grow.

(9.) - Another ham-astronaut - Dr. Tony England, W0ORE, operated amateur radio and TV gear from space orbit in August after a two and a half week delay.

(10.) - On the technical front, packet radio networking proliferated into a major amateur communications medium as hardware costs decreased and interest soared!

(11.) - At year end, cellular interests tried to restrict the public's access to the airwaves under the wire tap laws. If they have their way, it will be illegal to listen to portions of the radio spectrum that contain private conversations. Even though totally unenforceable, it could become illegal to listen to certain frequencies on scanners.

(12.) - Frequency coordination continued to be a hot issue during 1985! Many states adopted 2-meter band plans that were in conflict with the ARRL plan and neighboring states. Some did it successfully, some didn't.

## WHAT'S AHEAD FOR AMATEUR RADIO?

Novice Class enhancement is shaping up to be a biggie for 1986! About Spring we will know what the Commission has in store for the nations amateur radio beginners.

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## HOLIDAY COMMUNICATIONS WITH KOREA...

The FCC sent out a Public Notice on December 16th notifying the amateur radio community that the Republic of Korea has authorized stations with call sign prefix HL9 to conduct third-party phone patch radiocommunication with U.S. amateur stations in the United States during the Christmas/New Year period beginning December 20, 1985, 0001 UTC and ending 2359 UTC January 4, 1986. This is pretty much an annual event and the FCC said they had no objections to this.



# W5YI REPORT.....

Page #3

January 1, 1986

## PUBLIC PACKET RADIO SERVICE PETITION SIX METER AMATEUR BAND SUGGESTED

The FCC has accepted a proposal for public comment by Donald L. Stoner, W6TNS, for the creation of "the Public Digital Radio Service." The acceptance by the FCC is in keeping with a Commission decision reached December 14, 1983, at the Commission's "no code" proceeding - Docket #20282. The PDRS petition was assigned RM-5241 - comments close on January 6, 1986.

The FCC said at the 1983 open Commissioner's meeting that Stoner's proposal to establish a Computer Hobbyist Radio Service would be accepted as comments on the codeless class of Amateur Radio License, but that they would "entertain future proposals for allocating spectrum separate and apart from amateur radio frequencies for a new Computer Hobbyist Radio Service." It was (and still is) Stoner's contention that the Computer Hobbyist Radio Service would have brought in literally millions of people into amateur radio.

At the Commission meeting, Bob Foosaner, Chief of the FCC's Private Radio Bureau said "...it is a petition that we will look at." He indicated that the question had been examined several times in the past related to CB radio. "The Hobby Class may be something that replaces the CB type of thing," he said. "We are going to look at it. It's going to be difficult to find spectrum for this type of service." The radio spectrum is not allocated for such a service.

That was two years ago. On December 6th, 1985, the FCC released a Public Notice stating that they were now going to consider a public digital network. Stoner's extremely well done proposal ran to 28 typewritten pages. I called Don when I received the FCC notice. He had not yet heard that his proposal had been assigned an RM file number.

Don is uniquely qualified to put forth the computer-to-computer proposal. He is a well known technical author and educator and was a CQ magazine editor at one point. He has written hundreds of articles and several books on the subject of amateur radio and computer communications.

Don has been a licensed radio amateur for thirty years plus and is generally credited with the concept which grew to become the OSCAR satellite series. His ideas are usually far ahead of their time.

Stoner is the Vice President of Engineering at the Microperipheral Corporation in Redmond, Washington and currently heads up an effort that "sofcasts" personal computer programs via FM subcarriers relayed to commercial FM stations by satellite. He designed a \$70 "black box" device (which he calls a shuttle communicator) that links airborne software with a radio and personal computer.

## SUMMARY OF THE PDRS PROPOSAL

Stoner suggests a wide band channel (non-channelized) to send data at high rates of speed. "A single wideband channel can be thought of as a digital highway with addressed packets entering and leaving the route in a highly organized manner.[This] can only be accommodated within the VHF band or higher frequencies."

Stoner said that the 52-54 MHz frequency range is virtually unoccupied and therefore unused. "It is estimated that out of the 400,000 radio amateurs in the United States, less than 1,000 are active on the six meter band. Due to a potential for interference with adjacent television channel 2 (54-60 MHz), virtually all six meter users operate between 50 and 52 MHz. For all practical purposes the radio spectrum between 52 and 54 MHz is wasted," he noted.

## PDRS POTENTIAL FOR TV INTERFERENCE

The petitioner maintained that no TVI can occur from a radio modem operating in the 52-54 MHz band if:

- (1.) ...the TV station signal received strength exceeds 100 uv
- (2.) ...the effective radiated power of the radio modem does not exceed one watt
- (3.) ...the radio modem antenna is vertically polarized with respect to a horizontal TV receiving antenna and
- (4.) ...all modulation and spurious products falling outside the authorized bandwidth conform to specified FCC rules



### WHAT IS A PACKET RADIO NETWORK?

Stoner explains in his petition that a local area network (LAN) is a system of a limited number of computers connected together by cable in a manner which permits intercommunication.

"A packet network is an infinite number of LAN's connected together by radio waves. A packet radio network may be thought of as the digital equivalent of the U.S. Postal Service. The information to be sent to another computer is equivalent to a letter. The letter is placed in an envelope which includes a destination address. This is called the packet. This packet is sent along with those of other users into the network, which acts like a mailbag. The packet address also includes something like a postal zip code. Each radio modem (node controller) connected to the network is a destination mailbox."

"Each user is considered to be a 'node' in the Public Digital Radio Service. These stations or nodes constantly monitor the transmissions (mailbags), looking for packets (envelopes) which are addressed to them. If a message to the node is detected, it is held in memory (the recipients mailbox.)"

"The message may be intended for a nearby node as indicated by the 'zip code'. In this case, the node 'mailbox' does not activate. Rather the node becomes a 'post office' and passes (digipeats) the message to one or more other nodes. The reply from the destination computer is handled in the same manner but the direction is reversed."

"Packet radio transmission (movement of 'mailbags') can occur at very high speed. In fact, the speed is only limited by the bandwidth of frequencies allotted to the network."

The Stoner petition said that the 2 MHz requested "is sufficient to handle data rates in excess of 1 million bits per second" and could handle a large number of simultaneous users. "Actually, the number of simultaneous users is unlimited due to an advantage of FM radio called 'capture effect.' Each node will 'hear' (or capture) only the strongest stations in the immediate area of the node. More

distant stations will be inaudible and will not cause interference."

### A COMPARISON WITH CB RADIO....

"There is a major reason for the chaos which developed on the 27 MHz Citizens Band. The licensees of this service did not feel it was in their interest to abide by the Rules and Regulations. We can learn from this experience by designing a service where Rule compliance is in the interest of the user:

**Modulation:** There must be no provision for voice communications in the PDRS.

**Identification:** The FCC licensing workload will not be increased. Services which are essentially self-regulating (such as the remote control of objects, garage door openers, etc.) do not require the use of call letters.

**Compliance:** Each radio modem has its own unique ID code, that is, its packet address.

This is both the serial number and digital address of the unit. This code also identifies the manufacturer and the physical location of the radio modem. Violations of technical requirements can be easily correlated by manufacturer. If a unit is found to be non-complying, a message can be addressed to that radio modem advising the user of the problem. The Commission personnel sending the message receives the customary delivery acknowledgement of the message. Thus there can be no question that the user received the Notice of Violation.

**Power Output:** A major contributing factor to the 'CB problem' was the addition of power amplifiers to CB radios in an effort to increase the talk range. "Adding a power amplifier to a radio modem will produce no increase in performance" since "the unit will 'retrain' to reduce its power output to maintain the nominal signal level at nearby radio modems."

**Antenna:** No advantage would be obtained by use of high gain, directional antennas since the radio modem would retrain to produce the nominal signal strength at nearby nodes. Raising the height of the antenna would cause no noticeable increase in communication range.



**Off Frequency Operation:** There is only one channel or band. Out of band data would be destroyed by amateur radio or TV channel 2 signals.

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS....

The radio modem (terminal node controller) shall meet the following specifications:

**Frequency Band:** Equipment authorized to operate in the Public Digital Radio Service shall be capable of receiving and transmitting data within the band 52-53.999 MHz.

**Modulation:** The data shall frequency modulate the carrier in a frequency shift keyed scheme. No provision for voice modulation or detection.

**Modulation and Spurious Products:** The data rate (which will be left to industry to determine), waveform and signal processing shall be such that all products which all outside the authorized bandwidth be suppressed by 43 plus 10 log10 (mean output power, in watts) decibels.

**Power Output:** The power delivered by the final amplifier stage into a 72 ohm load shall not exceed 1.0 watts. Further, the radio modem shall have an initial powerup 'training' mode. Upon powerup, the power output will be 1 milliwatt. The power will increase during 'training' in 3 db. steps until contact is established with nearby modems (node controllers.) This value is stored in memory and becomes the nominal power output for the radio modem.

**Antenna:** Shall consist of a vertical radiator which does not exceed one-quarter wavelength. The antenna shall exhibit no gain or directional characteristics.

**Transmitter Identification:** Each radio modem shall have an imbedded identification which is transmitted as part of its packet address. The address will be used to identify the manufacturer, the serial number and the routing code of the equipment.

**Packet Construction:** The packet and

destination address will be contained in the header. The header will be constructed to limit the number of destination addresses. This is done to specifically preclude the transmission of 'junk mail.'

**Remuneration:** Users of the PDRS shall be specifically prohibited from receiving any form of remuneration or compensation, either in the form of funds, goods or services. The purpose of this provision is to prevent the use of the Public Digital Radio Service for the benefit of common carriers. The restriction shall not be construed to preclude the use of the PDRS for business applications. "For example, the radio modem would be extremely useful within buildings to avoid the need for local area network cabling."

**Type Acceptance:** Type acceptance procedures, similar to those for Citizens Band equipment, will be required to "insure that commercially manufactured equipment used in the PDRS meets the specified technical requirements for this service."

**INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS** - Stoner says that since the allocation is above 50 MHz, it appears that no international treaties will be involved..." [Editor's Note: We take issue with that! ITU agreed upon allocations specifically allocate the 50-54 MHz band to Amateur exclusive! No exceptions. It appears any FCC consideration to PDRS will have to be within the confines of the Amateur Radio Service. As we see it, it could be done, but would have to be a no-code unlicensed amateur class.]

**AMATEUR RADIO OPPOSITION** - Stoner: "...there can be no defense by amateurs of the inactivity on 6 meters. A reallocation of the frequencies requested would benefit the majority at virtually no expense to the minority."

**AMATEUR RADIO COLABORATION** - "The principal purpose of this petition is to obtain an allocation for a public computer communications band. The writer would not object if this goal could be achieved as part of the Radio Amateur Service. The computer public would accept an administrative fee in return for access to the radio spectrum. However,



they would never accept any sort of 'testing' to achieve this goal."

## CONCLUSION....

So there you have it. A capsulized version of what has the potential to become an unbelievably popular public radio service. Did you know that there are more subscribers to BYTE magazine than the entire ham population of the United States?

The public's need to communicate with one another at a low price has never been realized. PDRS could provide immediate message delivery at far less than the cost of a 22¢ postage stamp (actually no cost) and no delivery time is involved.

Currently non-amateur computer-to-computer communications requires expensive telephone interconnection. You can be assured that telephone and broadcast interests will oppose the Public Digital Radio Service!

Be sure to send a copy of your comments to Don Stoner, W6TNS; 6014 E. Mercer Way; Mercer Island, WA 98040. FCC rules require this so Stoner can respond to them in his reply comments.

## WAYNE GREEN GETS '73 MAGAZINE' BACK!

Surprise! Surprise! As of January 1, 1986, "73 - for Radio Amateurs" reverts back to Wayne Green, W2NSD/1, its initial owner and publisher! Green started "73" in 1960 and 1985 was its twenty-fifth consecutive year of publication.

Rumors that Green would be getting involved in "73" again have been stirring for some two months now. They were confirmed on December 17th. "73" is owned by CW Communications/Peterborough, a division of the CW Communications/Inc. group, the world's largest publisher of computer-related information.

Each of the magazine's staff was given the choice of staying with 73 - but moving to WGE's Hancock, New Hampshire, quarters (about ten miles from Peterborough) or transferring to other CW publications. Technical

Editor Perry Donham, KW1O, is transferring to "InCider" - an Apple computer magazine. While publisher Jack Burnett says he has not yet made up his mind, rumors are that he will not join Green.

The deal was signed Tuesday, December 17th. It didn't come as a shock to 73 staffers. International Data Group (IDG), a division of parent company CW Communications/Framingham (Massachusetts), owns both CW Communications/Peterborough and Wayne Green Enterprises, Inc. In effect WGE, Inc., is a wholly owned subsidiary.

About two months ago, Pat McGovern, chairman of IDG told Jack Burnett, the 73 publisher, that he wanted to move "73" from CWC/P to WGE, Inc. McGovern felt that "73" did not fit the computer publishing direction of CWC/P. If Wayne had not taken the magazine, IDG reportedly would have put 73 Magazine up for sale. Green decided to take it back and the entire staff has been offered positions at Wayne Green Enterprises.

The transition is already underway and answers are required from each staff member on Monday, December 23rd, as to whether or not they are transferring to WGE. We are told that just about the entire staff listed on the masthead of "73" will be changing along with the magazine's format. It is known that Wayne wants a ham at the top publishing spot. Jack Burnett, the present publisher is not a licensed amateur. There will also be a lot of internal changes that the average reader will not notice.

Instead of relying on unsolicited freelance articles, most of the features will be specifically assigned to authors. Each issue will be more carefully planned. Emphasis will be placed on the new amateur and how to become one. Lesser importance will be given to technical articles. Paid readers, numbering in excess of 50,000, will see a change with the April issue. Early 1986 issues are already completed or nearing completion.

Wayne's editorials will, of course, be returning after a year's absence. Even though daffy at times, Green's ramblings were well read and sold a lot of magazines! And you can



expect 73 to have a big ham station on the air with Wayne travelling to a lot of ham-fests.

From a profit standpoint, 73 Magazine was saddled with a considerable amount of CWC/Peterborough administrative expense - something that WGE, Inc., will not have to withstand. Without this overhead, 73 Magazine should be a moneymaker, we were told.

Green is quoted in a recent edition of the Peterborough (New Hampshire) Transcript (newspaper) as saying "I am really looking forward to working in the field of amateur radio once again." The addition of "73" brings the number of WGE publications to four. Wayne Green Enterprises also publishes "Digital Audio", "Tele" and "Picos Journal" - aimed at laptop micro users.

## MORE ON COLOMBIAN VOLCANO DISASTER

Fred Laun, K3ZO, has just returned from Colombia and has put together the following account of amateur radio activity during the volcano disaster. Laun, was an officer at the U.S. embassy in Bogota in the early 1980's (HK3NBB) and is now assigned to the U.S. delegation to the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C....

It was 6 or 7 p.m. on the night of November 13, and the Nevado de Ruiz volcano in Colombia was raining ashes on a number of cities and villages in Tolima Department (state), Colombia. The governor therefore asked Ramiro Lozano, HK6AON, President of the Tolima Red Cross, to activate the repeater of the Liga Colombiana de Radioaficionados (LCRA is the Colombian ham organization) just outside of Bogota in order to warn various localities in Tolima to be on the alert just in case something might happen.

One of the contacts HK6AON made was with the Mayor of the city of Amero, Ramon Antonio Rodriguez, HK6HTC. Rodriguez remained on the repeater for some time to receive continued reports from the governor's office. Communities upstream reported that a wall of mud and water was headed toward Amero. HK6HTC left the repeater to begin evacuation of the area nearest the Lagunilla

River. Lucho de la Torre, HK6FDE, was left to represent Amero on the repeater.

At approximately 10 p.m. HK6FDE was asked by the Tolima Red Cross (HK6AON) to check on a possible emergency use building. HK6FDE returned to the frequency a minute later to say that he was unable to leave his house due to rising mud and water. That was the last transmission heard from Amero...

At that point, those on the repeater realized that something serious had happened. A Red Cross vehicle destined for Amero was unable to get through and reported that the lights in Amero were out. Rescue units could only wait until the first light of morning to determine the extent of the devastation.

At dawn, using two repeaters some 60 amateurs affiliated with the Bogota division of the LCRA swung into action. Operators were sent to hospitals, airports and ambulance dispatch points. Two ham stations were set up in the Presidential Palace to provide direct coordination with the President's Emergency Commission. A direct phone line was installed from the Presidential Palace to LCRA headquarters.

The Minister of Communications issued a temporary decree allowing Red Cross, Civil Defense and Military personnel to use amateur radio even though they possessed no amateur licenses. At this point, the only communications the government had into the disaster area were via amateur radio.

Amero was particularly hard hit since the Lagunilla River turns sharply to the right before it enters the area. The wall of mud and water was unable to negotiate the turn, instead heading right on in to the center of town.

Fred Laun said that emergency operations continue in effect. HK6FDE survived the disaster and is presently in a hospital in Bogota. All of the rest of his family are missing and presumed dead. He lost everything and the LCRA has begun a relief fund to get him back on his feet. In a dramatic interview on Colombian national television the evening of November 28, he told his story from his

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license preparation materials as a convenience to applicants and VE's. All materials contain all questions, answers and discussion why answer is right!  
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hospital bed. The mayor of Armero, HK6HTC, is also missing and presumed dead.

The best estimate of the number killed in the Armero disaster stands now at 22,500 people. The volcano continues active and could cause more damage at any moment. LCRA is also providing communications for a group of geologists from around the world who are closely monitoring the volcano's activity.

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## AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS...

Issued through the first of December are as follows:

Radio District	Group "A" Extra	"B" Advan.	"C" Tech/Gen	"D" Novice
0	NO0T	KE0BY	N0GRH	KA0VPW
1	NC1L	KB1VH	N1DVV	KA1NOH
2	NN2T	KD2QA	N2FYU	KA2ZMO
3	KY3M	KC3UT	N3EQU	KA3OSN
4	AA4PA	KJ4NP	N4NDC	KB4QJD
5	WD5P	KF5HL	N5IQQ	KA5YHY
6	WN6O	KG6ZR	N6MUM	KB6KRW
7	NR7R	KE7LF	N7HRV	KA7WKP
8	NQ8D	KE8BY	N8HAL	KA8YIN
9	NI9I	KD9SR	N9FNB	KA9UJC
N. Mariana I.	AH0E	AH0AC	KH0AI	WH0AAG
Guam	AH2V	AH2BE	KH2BW	WH2AHP
Johnston Is.	AH3A	AH3AC	KH3AB	WH3AAC
Midway Is.		AH4AA	KH4AD	WH4AAF
Hawaii	(*)	AH6GO	NH6EU	WH6BGB
Kure Is.			KH7AA	
Amer. Samoa	AH8B	AH8AB	KH8AD	WH8AAV
Wake Wilkes Peale		AH9AC	KH9AB	WH9AAE
Alaska	(*)	AL7HL	NL7GU	WL7BIS
Virgin Is.	KP2O	KP2AV	NP2BO	WP2AEO
Puerto Rico	WP4P	KP4JF	NP4RT	WP4ETA

[\*] NOTE: All of the Group "A" call signs have been assigned in Alaska and Hawaii. Group "B" now being assigned to Extra Class amateurs. The Virgin Islands has only 11 Group "A" call signs left - Puerto Rico 10. Puerto Rico's "A" calls should run out along about December 1986. The Virgin Islands could last another 3 years since only 3 Extra Class call signs were assigned there in the last twelve months. It will be many, many years before any call sign groups run out in the contiguous U.S. -- at least another ten years!

## HAM LICENSE PROCESSING TIME LENGTHENS

The FCC advises that it took 24 working days - about 5 weeks - to process and mail 7,330 amateur licenses during November 1985. Add another 2 weeks for upgrade applications to filter through the new VE system making a total of 7 weeks. The October 1985 "Speed of Service" report showed only 17 working days.

By way of comparison, it took only 14 working days to mail 8,630 licenses during November 1984.

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## NOVEMBER AMATEUR LICENSING STATS....

	November 1984	1985
New First Time Amateurs:	1,281	910
Novice Class Upgrading:	690	498
Technician Class Upgrading:	277	239
General Class Upgrading:	338	240
Advanced Class Upgrading:	200	171
Total Amateurs Upgrading:	1,505	1,148
Amateurs Failing to Renew:	627	1,296
Change in Amateur Census:	+624	-386
[ 9.3% Extra Class		38,305]
[23.6% Advanced		97,781]
[28.3% General		117,082]
[20.2% Technician		83,387]
[18.6% Novice		77,087]
Month End Amateur Census:	411,028	413,642
Club/Military/RACES		2,753
Total Active Stations		416,395
[Source: FCC Licensing Facility, Gettysburg]		

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## TECH PRIVILEGES ON 160 METERS DENIED

The FCC has affirmed its Private Radio Bureau decision not to extend Technician Class amateur privileges to the 160-meter amateur frequency band.

Shaler Hanish (no call sign given) had argued that present Technician Class privileges normally permit voice contact only above 30 MHz, thus limiting Technician Class amateur operators who live in isolated areas and small towns to telegraphy for long distance communications.

The petitioner also maintained that operation in the 160 meter band would provide amateur operators with the technical challenge of designing and building their own



equipment. Hanish said that the 160 meter band "shows an underutilization in contrast to the congestion found on higher frequencies.

The Commission agreed with the PRB that granting the petition would diminish a licensee's incentive to upgrade. The FCC said the incentive licensing system provides the motivation for licensee upgrading and enables amateur operators to compensate for various circumstances — including geographical location. "We believe that the principle of skill advancement is basically sound and appropriate in amateur radio," the FCC wrote in their December 12, 1985, ruling.

●The FCC has accepted a petition for rulemaking from Larry W. Garrens, WD5H of Brady, Texas. The proposal, assigned RM-5251, requests amendment of the rules to allow Novice Amateur Radio operators access to the 902-928 MHz band. Comments on the proposal close on January 15, 1986.

## SCAN MAGAZINE JOINS WITH POP COMM....

Robert A. Hanson, W9AIF, (Hillside, IL), Managing Director of the Scanner Association of North America, reports that he has entered into an agreement with Richard A. Ross, K2MGA, to incorporate the contents of the Scanner Association's official publication, SCAN Magazine, into the pages of Popular Communications. Dick Ross is also the publisher of CQ Magazine for Radio Amateurs.

All members of the Scanner Association — now numbering some 30,000 members — will now receive Popular Communications on a monthly basis. Founded in 1978, the Scanner Association of North America began publishing its official journal, SCAN Magazine, in 1980. The combined circulation of Popular Communications incorporating SCAN Magazine will now exceed 90,000, making it, by far, the largest circulation publication of its type. The first of the new combined issue will carry a February 1986 cover date.

A very interesting article appears in the September/October issue of SCAN Magazine concerning the Electronic Privacy Act of 1985 and an individual's right to use a scanner.

## ARRL SEEKS INFO ON MEXICAN QUAKE....

Mike Riley, KX1B, the ARRL's Public Service Manager, seeks information on the problems occurring in the early hours after the Mexico City earthquake. The League's Board of Directors discussed this at the ARRL National Convention on October 5th and 6th in Louisville, Kentucky.

The most serious problem was the lack of a reciprocal operating agreement between the United States and Mexico. ARRL Prez Larry Price, W4RA, will appoint a blue ribbon committee to study the situation at a Board meeting set for January.

The League seeks written documentation from all radio amateurs who participated in public service third party traffic activities to support a file for this committee. Send your reports to: Michael R. Riley, KX1B, Public Service Manager, ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT, 06111.

Each station's correspondence to ARRL about Mexican temporary operator permits and a willingness to explore a reciprocal operating agreement will be made a part of this file.

The League received calls from amateurs all over the world from people that wanted to help but didn't know how. The ARRL wants to be better prepared if the situation ever happens again.

## GOLDWATER'S WIFE DIES AT AGE 76....

Margaret Peggy Goldwater, wife of Senator Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, (R-Arizona) died from complications of recent circulation problems and amputation of her left leg. She had been hospitalized since November. Mrs. Goldwater died at 5:45 a.m. December 11th at Good Samaritan Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona with Barry at her bedside.

Mrs. Goldwater underwent surgery in early November for bypass of a blood clot that moved from her heart to an artery in the abdomen and caused circulation problems to her leg. An artificial skin graft became infected and Mrs. Goldwater reentered the hospital



on November 26th. Two days later she underwent major abdominal surgery and a larger skin graft. It failed to provide the needed circulation and the amputation became necessary on December 4th. The Goldwaters had been married for 51 years. Survivors include four children.

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● A five state regional repeater council has been formed to coordinate frequency assignments in the midwest. The Mid-America Coordination Council (MACC) was organized on November 2, 1985, with Denny Crabb, WB0GGI, elected president. MACC will cover the states of South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri. MACC invites other states to join as well. Contact: Joe Eisenberg, WA0WRI; 7133 Yosemite Drive; Lincoln, NE 68507-2077 (Tel: 402-464-8882)

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## C.A.R.E. MOUNTS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE....

C.A.R.E., the Council for Amateur Radio Examining, an umbrella group consisting of those participating in amateur testing has begun a membership drive. The purpose of C.A.R.E. is to coordinate amateur testing efforts, establish Amateur Radio examining standards and improve communication among the amateur radio testing community through meetings, bulletins and other methods.

Four classes of membership have been established.

- (1.) - VEC Member - \$25.00  
Open to FCC certified Volunteer Examiner Coordinators.
- (2.) - General Membership - \$10.00  
Open to any accredited VE of a VEC member.
- (3.) - At Large Membership - \$15.00  
Granted to any accredited VE of a non-member VEC.
- (4.) - Associate Membership - \$5.00  
Open to any individual upon application and payment of dues.

The W5YI REPORT-VEC is a VEC member and any W5YI VE can apply for General Membership to: C.A.R.E.; P.O. Box #688; Glenview, Illinois 60025.

C.A.R.E.'s officers are:

President Joe T. Ingram, Jr., K4OOV  
Central Alabama VEC - Region 4  
Executive V. P. Jim Georgias, W9JUG  
DeVry VEC - National VEC  
1st Vice President Alex Magocsi, WB2MGB  
Metroplex VEC - National VEC  
2nd Vice President Fred Maia, W5YI  
W5YI-VEC - National VEC  
Secretary/Treasurer Gordon Girton, W6NLG  
Sunnyvale VEC - Region 6  
Public Relations Director Joe Shroeder, W9JUV

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## GOLDWATER TO OPERATE FROM TAIWAN

[Late Bulletin] - Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, has decided to go to Taiwan on January 1th, 1986, and operate as BV0BG effective January 4. The BV0Barry Goldwater call sign was issued last year for a planned DXpedition, but the trip was postponed. The trip was set again, but cancelled in view of his wife's ill health. When his wife passed away, Barry decided that he would go ahead with the trip.

Operation is planned from the QTH of Tim Chen, BV2A in Taipei. Chen is the president of the China Radio Association. Leading the DXpedition will be Dave Sidall, K3ZJ (an FCC senior staff attorney in the Common Carrier Bureau). Joining him will be W3HHG (Larry Kettlewell), K4OCI (Roland McElroy), K3TW (Tom Warren) and K4YT (Karl Renz). All are government employees. Renz is with the State Department based in Manila. The others will travel from Washington DC with Goldwater.

The team will use Chen's transmitting equipment, but will bring their own antennas - a 2-element 40 meter Hy-Gain beam and 3-elements on 15 and 20. They have arranged for two locations, so the possibility is that they will operate simultaneously on two different bands - or on CW and phone on the same band. They also hope to obtain 80 meter permission, but have not done so at press time. Operation is set from January 4-9.

After a press conference at the airport Barry Goldwater will make the initial QSO on the evening of January 4th in Taipei 10:00 UTC. The DXpedition flies back to the states on January 10th.